



**Permanent Mission
of Ukraine**
to the UN

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**Statement of the Delegation of Ukraine
at the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations on
agenda item 83 “The Rule of Law at the national and international levels”
(October 11, 2019)**

Mr. Chair,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and I would like to make a number of comments in my national capacity.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, addressing, both the national and international dimensions of the rule of law. Later I will briefly comment on some of its topics.

At the national level Ukraine continues reforms of the judicial system and have already started reforming the law enforcement agencies to ensure that corruption crimes are investigated and punishment for them is imminent.

Ukraine is acting today with full determination to uproot corruption in the country which is seen as the major impediment to its prosperity and development. We significantly improved respective legislation using best international standards and established new and independent anti-corruption bodies designed to perform their main function professionally and effectively.

Overcoming corruption is among the priorities of the new government, which had already taken a number of steps to this end. The Supreme Anticorruption Court launched its work in September this year.

Corruption is one of the factors which gives rise to violence, insecurity and injustice. We hope to share our positive experience in anti-corruption sphere at the special session of the General Assembly against corruption, to be held in 2021.

Mr. Chair,

The rule of law remains an effective tool at international level to defend sovereignty, territorial integrity and to advance protection of human rights. Ukraine is committed to the peaceful settlement of any international disputes, including those resulting from the foreign military aggression.

Since 2014 we have initiated several legal cases against the Russian side in international courts. On some of them we have already achieved important results.

The report of the Secretary-General contains the reference to the Order of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea issued this year and prescribing provisional measures in a dispute between Ukraine and the Russian Federation in the Case concerning the detention of three Ukrainian naval vessels (Ukraine v. Russian Federation).

Despite the recent release by the Russian Federation of the 24 detained Ukrainian servicemen, this Order remains unimplemented. The Russian Federation shall immediately release the Ukrainian naval vessels.

In our view it is also important to include in the Secretary-General report not only references but the follow-up on the implementation of international courts and tribunals decisions.

In particular, in the beginning of 2017 the International Court of Justice required Russia to refrain from maintaining or imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis, and ensure the availability of education in the Ukrainian language.

This Order continues to be ignored despite of its binding nature. The failure of the Russian Federation to comply with the Order reflected in the General Assembly resolutions. Moreover, the General Assembly strongly condemned the continuing and total disregard by the Russian Federation for its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law regarding its legal responsibility for the occupied Ukrainian territory.

The downing of MH17 in 2014 and the role of the Russian Federation in this tragedy is another important element of our case in ICJ. We consider it as a control element in case regarding the violation of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. We expect the court's ruling on jurisdiction to be delivered by the end of this year.

Mr. Chair,

It is difficult to overestimate the United Nations support for Member States in numerous areas relating to the rule of law and positive outcome of this work.

We agree with the report's conclusions on insufficiency of existing rules, norms and procedures to overcome newly emerged challenges, including forced displacement, mass migration and hate speech. But working on new solutions we need to strengthen compliance with existing norms, rules and principles. They are our place to stand that will allow to move forward.

Thank you.